

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-identified application are respectfully requested. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1 and 2-16 will be pending.

The Examiner's arguments have been carefully considered. Applicants present this amendment and the following arguments in an effort to obtain allowance of the application. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 11-14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,982,575 to Choi. The Examiner argues that Choi discloses a VCR with pole base assemblies (52), a loading gear (70), and elastic member (80) and link member (72) connected therebetween. The Examiner argues that the elastic member has a plurality of integral protrusions (82), and has a concave shape when bent. Finally the Examiner argues that the loading gear is fixedly attached to the linking member. The Examiner admits that Choi does not show an elastic rod connected between the loading gear and the linking member. The "elastic rod" of Choi is connected between the pole base and the linking member. However, the Examiner argues that it would have been obvious to connect the elastic member between the loading gear and the linking member, rather than between the linking member and the pole base.

Applicants note with appreciation that claims 2-10 are allowable, but rejected as depending from a rejected base claim. Applicants have amended claim 1 to incorporate the elements of claim 2. Claim 2 has been canceled and claims 3 and 9

amended to depend from claim 1, rather than canceled claim 2. Applicants request allowance of claims 1-10.

Claim 11 has been amended to incorporate "a deformation restricting means." Choi does not teach or suggest a deformation restricting means. Accordingly, allowance of claims 11-15 is requested.

Independent claim 16 has been added by amendment. Applicants believe claim 16 to be allowable over Choi. Claim 16 requires "an elastic rod integrally formed with the loading gear. As discussed in the specification, integrally forming the elastic rod with the loading gear is advantageous. For example, by integrally forming the elastic rod with the loading gear, both can be made, for example, by molding of a synthetic resin material which is easy to form and also inexpensive (see paragraph [0040]). Choi does not teach an elastic rod integrally formed with the loading gear. At best, Choi discloses a rigid link member "fixedly attached" to the linking member, as discussed in the office action. Because Choi does not teach an elastic rod integrally formed with the loading gear, Choi does not anticipate or render obvious claim 16. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request allowance of claim 16.

In view of the above, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance and notice to this effect is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

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Respectfully Submitted,



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